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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.
CHURCH

Former Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, criticized the Reagan administration for the invasion of Grenada, saying it was practicing a double standard because it condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Church, a former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who now specializes in international law with a Washington, D.C., firm, also questioned the motive behind the invasion.

He said the "pretext being used to justify the invasion ... is to promote American lives. The use of force to protect lives is proper, but in the case of Grenada, the question is if there was really any threat on American lives.

"I think that in due course it will be revealed that our government's real objective was to displace the local government and put in its place a government of our choosing," he said.

Church was in the city to speak to the New Mexico Bar Association. He discussed Grenada and Lebanon at a news conference following his address to the association.

Church said he did not originally oppose sending Marines to Lebanon because the creation of an international peace-keeping force appeared to be a necessary step toward peace in the Middle Eastern country.

Now, he said, "there is no peace to keep. They are ablaze in civil war. It is the height of stupidity for us to stay and think that we can solve their problems."

In his address to the association, Church said the "political pendulum" is swinging away from efforts to "uphold liberty and law and to the need to unleash the CIA."

He said Senate investigations in which he was involved showed that the CIA and FBI "and other federal agencies (were) deeply involved in blatantly illegal conduct designed to spy upon, discredit, injure and harass thousands of innocent Americans."

He called on his fellow lawyers to use their efforts to protect individual liberties.